

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **Cancelled**
2. **Cancelled**
3. **Cancelled**
4. **Cancelled**
5. **(Previously Presented)** An isolated nucleic acid having at least 99% nucleic acid sequence identity to:  
  
the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 wherein said nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide which stimulates TNF- $\alpha$  release from human blood.
6. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated nucleic acid comprising:
  - (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:6;
  - (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:6, lacking its associated signal peptide;
  - (c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding ~~the extracellular domain~~ amino acids 17-234 of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:6;
  - (d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding ~~the extracellular domain a polypeptide comprising amino acids 17-234 of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:6, lacking its associated signal peptide wherein said encoded polypeptide does not comprise amino acids 1-16 of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 6;~~
  - (e) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5;
  - (f) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5; or
  - (g) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209399;  
  
~~wherein said extracellular domain is amino acids 17-234 of SEQ ID NO:6.~~
7. **(Previously Presented)** The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 6 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:6.
8. **(Previously Presented)** The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 6 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:6, lacking its associated signal peptide.

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9. **(Currently Amended)** The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 6 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding ~~the extracellular domain~~ amino acids 17-234 of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:6, ~~wherein said extracellular domain is amino acids 17-234 of SEQ ID NO:6.~~

10. **(Currently Amended)** The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 6 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding ~~the extracellular domain~~ a polypeptide comprising amino acids 17-234 of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:6, lacking its associated signal peptide, ~~wherein said extracellular domain is amino acids 17-234 of SEQ ID NO:6~~ wherein said encoded polypeptide does not comprise amino acids 1-16 of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 6.

11. **(Previously Presented)** The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 6 comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 6 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 6 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209399.

14. **Cancelled**

15. **Cancelled**

16. **Cancelled**

17. **(Previously Presented)** A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 6.

18. **(Previously Presented)** The vector of Claim 17, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

19. **(Previously Presented)** An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim 17.

20. **(Previously Presented)** The host cell of Claim 19, wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an E. coli or a yeast cell.